

NOAA WEATHER RADIO All HAZARDS INFORMATION

NOAA Weather Radio uses the Emergency Alert System to alarm radios when warnings are issued.

What is the Emergency Alert System?

The Emergency Alert System “EAS” is used by all broadcasters throughout the U.S. as a means of alerting the public to life and property threatening situations. When this important information must be transmitted to the public, radio and TV stations broadcast a digital burst of data that interrupts normal broadcasting. The digital burst of data contains information about the danger such as what the threat is, where it is and when the threat will exist. When the EAS is activated either a voice is heard and/or a voice and text crawl for TV is displayed describing the threat. Special built radio and TV receivers are also capable of turning themselves on upon receipt of an EAS signal. So even if your radio is turned off, if an alarm is transmitted, your radio will turn on and notify you of the threat.

What kind of warnings are transmitted with the EAS signal?

Most warnings across the country are weather related for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

In addition to weather warnings EAS can be used by local civil authorities to warn of a hazardous material spill such as a tanker truck accident involving dangerous chemicals.

What should I do when an EAS warning is heard on radio or TV?

Listen carefully to the message. When an EAS activation occurs, the broadcaster, or crawl on the TV will describe the reason for the activation, the location where the threat exists and the time frame when the hazard is expected. Appropriate instructions on how to avoid the threat may also be part of the message.

When important information must be relayed quickly to the public, EAS will most likely be used. When you hear the EAS alert signal, pay attention to the information and take the appropriate action. The information you hear should keep you out of harms way.

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